



*Permanent Mission of*  
**Malaysia**  
*to the United Nations*

(As delivered)

**STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA  
AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE  
DURING THE 62<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
NEW YORK, 8 OCTOBER 2007**

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the delegation of Malaysia, I wish to extend our warmest congratulations and felicitations to you on your assumption of the Chairmanship of the First Committee for the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the General Assembly. We are convinced that your experience, knowledge, and leadership would be essential in steering our work forward. Rest assured Mr. Chairman, that my delegation stands ready to cooperate with you and other delegations in moving our work forward. I wish to also extend my delegations congratulations to Ambassador Sergio Duarte on his appointment as High Representative of the Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs.

2. Malaysia is of the view that the work of this Committee carries special importance as its decisions portend to the larger audience outside this meeting room our commitment to the disarmament and international security agenda.

3. At the outset, my delegation associates itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the statement which will be delivered by Myanmar on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Mr. Chairman,

4. Malaysia reaffirms that our work should be aimed at achieving the objective of complete and general disarmament through the multilateral approach. While we acknowledge that non-proliferation and disarmament are mutually reinforcing processes, my delegation is concerned that progress made on non-proliferation are not matched by parallel commitments on disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament.

5. Malaysia remains convinced that the possession of nuclear weapons by some states continues to fuel the desire in other states to acquire or possess such weapons themselves. In this regard, we are also deeply concerned that certain nuclear weapon States are considering making further qualitative improvements to their nuclear arsenals as well as strengthening nuclear-based defence doctrines and strategies. At the same time, while there is no commensurate progress on nuclear disarmament, there is an increasing tendency by some to focus on strengthening non-proliferation measures.

6. This status quo whereby more effort and attention is focused on nuclear non-proliferation, whilst the progress or lack thereof, in disarmament is obscure, cannot be sustained. Both issues need to be addressed simultaneously and in parallel as a loss of balance in implementing the disarmament and non-proliferation objectives of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) will only undermine the confidence of non-nuclear weapon states in the underlying original bargain of the Treaty, leading down a dangerous path of uncertainty - which is hardly encouraging as we embark on a new cycle to build towards a successful 2010 NPT Review Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

7. My delegation remains hopeful that the nuclear weapon States will be able to translate their own expressions of serious concern over the proliferation of nuclear weapons to effectively address the issue by demonstrating the necessary political will needed to make headway and progress in disarmament. In this connection, my delegation wishes to recall that at the 2000 NPT Review Conference, nuclear weapon States Parties had unequivocally undertaken to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, in accordance with the provisions of Article VI of the Treaty. Towards this end, my delegation views the provision of negative security assurances as an important and achievable step towards nuclear disarmament.

8. A practical and achievable way to address the issue of negative security assurances is through the establishment of nuclear weapons-free-zones. At the regional level, Malaysia became a party to the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) on 15 December 1995, and ratified it on 11 October 1996. Malaysia urges the nuclear-weapon States to become parties to the Protocol of the SEANWFZ Treaty as soon as possible.

9. Malaysia believes that the establishment of nuclear weapons-free zones as a platform for the promotion of regional disarmament that could enhance the security of all states and ultimately contributing to international peace and security. NWFZ strengthens peace and security as it promotes greater transparency and dialogue among the nation States, eventually leading to the creation of an environment conducive to arms control, thereby reducing the risk of regional conflicts.

10. In this context, Malaysia laments the fact that a nuclear weapons-free-zone has yet to be established in the Middle East and my delegation joins the call for the establishment of a nuclear weapons-free-zone in that region without delay. The adoption of the resolution on the Middle East at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference was an essential component of the bargain struck at the Conference, which contributed to the decision of States Parties for the indefinite extension of the Treaty.

11. In this relation, Malaysia reiterates the call on Israel, being the only non-signatory to the NPT in the Middle East, to immediately accede to the Treaty, which would be an important confidence building measure and would significantly contribute to enhancing peace and security in the Middle East.

12. Pending Israel's accession to the Treaty, Malaysia would call upon the nuclear weapons States to immediately and unconditionally halt the transfer of relevant nuclear weapons, materials, goods, and technology to that country. Malaysia is of the view that such cases whereby a non-party is accorded preferential treatment in comparison to States Parties, constitutes a gross violation of the spirit and letter of the Treaty. It is only to those developing non-nuclear weapon states that have foresworn nuclear weapons which deserve to be accorded preferential treatment in terms of access to nuclear equipment, material, and technology over non-states parties. In this connection, Malaysia urges the three non-signatory States that remain outside the NPT to accede to the Treaty as non-nuclear weapon States, with a view to achieve the universality of the NPT.

Mr. Chairman,

13. While the strengthening of existing nuclear-weapon-free zones and establishment of new zones represents a positive step towards attaining the objective of global nuclear disarmament, such steps are not the main prescription in achieving

that goal. The total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only prescription and guarantee against its use or threat of use, and its proliferation.

14. To signify Malaysia's commitment to achieving nuclear disarmament, Malaysia would, for the eleventh consecutive year, continue to introduce to the First Committee a resolution entitled the "*Follow-up to the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*," which in essence, underscores the unanimous conclusion of the Court that "there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control."

Mr. Chairman,

15. The threat posed by other weapons of mass destruction should also be of concern to us. In this regard, Malaysia calls for the prohibition and total elimination of all other types of weapons of mass destruction, which include biological and chemical weapons. Malaysia strongly supports the universal implementation of and adherence to both the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), which would contribute significantly towards the achievement of complete and general disarmament.

16. This year, we commemorated the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the CWC, which by all accounts is a success as it is the first multilateral instrument that provides for comprehensive and verifiable prohibition of a whole category of weapons of mass destruction, which are significant achievements of multilateral negotiations for disarmament. In line with this, Malaysia is also of the view that effective verification measures should also be put in place to strengthen the BWC.

17. Having said that, while the provision on verification is of utmost importance, we should also promote international cooperation through the transfer of technology, material, and equipment for peaceful purposes in the chemical and biological fields, particularly to the developing countries.

18. That notwithstanding, this year also marks a less auspicious occasion, which incidentally, is the tenth year since the Conference of Disarmament has been deadlocked on its annual programme of work. Malaysia remains hopeful that the CD could find a way to overcome the current impasse to rightfully pursue its work as the sole multilateral negotiating forum on disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

19. Malaysia is also concerned with the proliferation and excessive accumulation of conventional weapons. The destructive power from the blast of an anti-personnel mine or a shotgun may pale in comparison to the destructive power unleashed by the splitting of the atom or the fallout from chemical agents, however the suffering and pain brought to bear on victims from landmines or small arms attacks are real enough. They can also cause grave damage to the economic development of poor communities and countries.

20. Malaysia had completely destroyed its stockpile of anti-personnel mines on 23 January 2001 making it the first anti-personnel mine-free country in Asia. Malaysia strongly supports international and humanitarian efforts to ban anti-personnel mines. In this regard, my delegation calls upon countries, particularly in the South East Asian region, to become party to the Ottawa Convention. Malaysia also supports all efforts to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. Domestically, Malaysia has put in place adequate and stringent laws, administrative procedures and regulations for the effective control over the production of small arms and lights weapons as well as over the exports, imports, transits and re-transfer of such weapons, in order to prevent illegal manufacture and illicit trafficking or their illegal diversion to unauthorized use.

21. In conclusion Mr. Chairman, I congratulate you once again on your election and underline my delegation's readiness to work with you, with a view to achieving a positive and successful outcome of this session of the First Committee, in the hope that ultimately, our work here will contribute towards the achievement of general and complete disarmament.

Thank you for your kind attention.

**8 October 2007**